

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A liquid storage device comprising a container and a removable cap, said container comprising a nozzle forming a passage between a zone inside the container and the outside of said container, said nozzle having a free end which forms a liquid outlet orifice which communicates between said nozzle and the outside of said container, said nozzle having an outer portion containing a gripping portion to engage said cap, said cap comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage said nozzle gripping portion, ~~and an upper wall closing the upper end of said side wall~~ and tabs, said cap further comprising a stopper element and a pressure equalizing element which equalizes pressure between said zone and the outside of said container when the gripping portion of said cap is partially engaged with the gripping portion of said nozzle, said cap further comprising a liquid containment element adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from said orifice as long as said cap is engaged to said nozzle, the cap including at least one slot capable of retaining liquid by capillarity, said slot extending along the entire length of the tabs.

26. (Currently Amended) A liquid storage device comprising a container and a removable cap, said container comprising a nozzle forming a passage between a zone

inside the container and the outside of said container, said nozzle having a free end which forms a liquid outlet orifice which communicates between said nozzle and the outside of said container, said nozzle having an outer portion containing a gripping portion to engage said cap, said cap comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage said nozzle gripping portion, ~~and an upper wall closing the upper end of said side wall~~ and tabs, said cap further comprising a liquid containment element adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from said orifice by capillary effect as long as the gripping portion of said cap is engaged to said nozzle, the cap including at least one slot capable of retaining liquid by capillarity, said slot extending along the entire length of the tabs.

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the liquid containment element comprises at least one surface adapted to spread at least a portion of liquid in said zone away from the orifice of the nozzle when said cap is removed from the device.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the liquid containment element comprises at least one surface adapted to spread at least a portion of liquid in said zone away from the orifice of the nozzle when said cap is removed from the device.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein said cap further comprises a communication element extending, when the cap is engaged to said nozzle, through said orifice and in to said zone inside the container.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein said cap further comprises a communication element extending, when the cap is engaged to said nozzle, through said orifice and in to said zone inside the container.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29 wherein said communication element further comprises at least one duct capable of placing the zone inside the container in communication with a second zone delimited by the cap and in communication with the outside when said cap is partially gripping said nozzle.

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein said communication element further comprises at least one duct capable of placing the zone inside the container in communication with a second zone delimited by the cap and in communication with the outside when said cap is partially gripping said nozzle.

33. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29 wherein said communication element further comprises at least two tabs capable of at least partially stoppering the nozzle.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein said communication element further comprises at least two tabs capable of at least partially stoppering the nozzle.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, a duct is formed between the tabs.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, a duct is formed between the tabs.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the tabs are separated by slots.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the tabs are separated by slots.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, said tabs being of a length approximately equal to that of the nozzle.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, said tabs being of a length approximately equal to that of the nozzle.

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33, said tabs being of a length appreciably longer than that of the nozzle and said tabs projecting into the zone inside the container when said cap is engaged to said nozzle.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, said tabs being of a length appreciably longer than that of the nozzle and said tabs projecting into the zone inside the container when said cap is engaged to said nozzle.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein said pressure equalizing element is adapted to retain a portion of liquid in said nozzle by capillary action when said cap is partially gripping said nozzle.

Claim 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A cap for a liquid storage device comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage a corresponding gripping portion of a nozzle of said device, said cap further comprising tabs, a stopper element and a pressure equalizing element which equalizes pressure inside said container and outside said container when the gripping portion of said cap is partially gripping said nozzle, said cap further comprising a liquid containment element adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from an orifice, which communicates between a zone inside said device and the outside of said device, as long as the gripping portion of said

cap is engaged on to said nozzle, the cap including at least one slot capable of retaining liquid by capillarity, said slot extending along the entire length of the tabs.

46. (Currently Amended) A cap for a liquid storage device comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage a corresponding gripping portion of a nozzle of said device, ~~and an upper wall closing the upper end of said side wall~~ and tabs, said cap further comprising a stopper element and a liquid containment element adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from an orifice, which communicates between a zone inside said device and the outside of said device, as long as the gripping portion of said cap is engaged on to said nozzle, the cap including at least one slot capable of retaining liquid by capillarity, said slot extending along the entire length of the tabs.

47. (Currently Amended) A liquid storage device comprising a container and a removable cap, said container comprising a nozzle forming a passage between a zone inside the container and the outside of said container, said nozzle having a free end which forms a liquid outlet orifice which communicates between said nozzle and the outside of said container, said nozzle having an outer portion containing a gripping portion to engage said cap, said cap comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage said nozzle gripping portion, said cap further comprising a stopper element and a pressure equalizing element which equalizes pressure between said zone and the outside of said container when the gripping portion of said cap is partially engaged with the gripping portion of said nozzle said cap further

comprising a dip tube with a length longer than that of the cap, arranged inside said cap and opening at one end near the orifice of the nozzle when said cap is engaged to said nozzle, said tube extending at the other end in to the zone inside the container, and is adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from said orifice as long as said cap is engaged to said nozzle.

48. (Currently Amended) A liquid storage device comprising a container and a removable cap, said container comprising a nozzle forming a passage between a zone inside the container and the outside of said container, said nozzle having a free end which forms a liquid outlet orifice which communicates between said nozzle and the outside of said container, said nozzle having an outer portion containing a gripping portion to engage said cap, said cap comprising a side wall with an inner surface containing a gripping portion to engage said nozzle gripping portion, said cap further comprising a stopper element and a pressure equalizing element which equalizes pressure between said zone and the outside of said container when the gripping portion of said cap is partially engaged with the gripping portion of said nozzle, said pressure equalizing element being adapted to retain a portion of liquid in said nozzle by capillary action when said cap is partially gripping said nozzle, said cap further comprising a liquid containment element adapted to retain liquid in said container axially distant from said orifice as long as said cap is engaged to said nozzle, said cap further comprising a dip tube with a length longer than that of the cap, arranged inside said cap and opening at one end near the orifice of the nozzle when said cap is engaged to said nozzle, said tube extending at the other end in to the zone inside the container.